


**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please make the following claim substitutions:

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- 1 1. (Canceled)
  - 1 2. (Canceled)
  - 1 3. (Canceled)
  - 1 4. (Canceled)
  - 1 5. (Canceled)
  - 1 6. (Canceled)
  - 1 7. (Canceled)
  - 1 8. (Canceled)
  - 1 9. (Canceled)
  - 1 10. (Canceled)
  - 1 11. (Canceled)
  - 1 12. (Canceled)
  - 1 13. (Canceled)
  - 1 14. (Canceled)
  - 1 15. (Canceled)
  - 1 16. (Canceled)
  - 1 17. (Canceled)
  - 1 18. (Canceled)
  - 1 19. (Canceled)
  - 1 20. (Canceled)
  - 1 21. (Canceled)
  - 1 22. (Canceled)
  - 1 23. (Canceled)
  - 1 24. (Canceled)
  - 1 25. (Canceled)
  - 1 26. (Canceled)
  - 1 27. (Canceled)

1 28. (Currently amended) A system comprising:  
2 at least one host bus master operable to utilize a first communications  
3 protocol for communicating over a parent bus; and  
4 at least two LIP bridge devices, each LIP bridge device including,  
5 a first transceiver coupled to said host bus master over said parent  
6 bus, said host bus master utilizing said first communications protocol;  
7 a second transceiver coupled to target devices over a child bus,  
8 said target devices utilizing a second communications protocol, said first  
9 communications protocol having a bridge device address field for  
10 addressing said bridge devices and a target device address field for  
11 addressing said target devices coupled to said child bus;  
12 said at least two LIP bridge devices being coupled to said parent bus and  
13 said child bus, said at least two LIP bridge devices being operable to transmit  
14 messages between said host bus master and said target devices, each of said at  
15 least two LIP bridge devices being partnered to the other LIP bridge device, said  
16 host bus master being operable to use said at least two LIP bridge devices to  
17 determine if transactions through a particular LIP bridge are corrupted, and said  
18 host bus master being operable to cross check data provided by each of said at  
19 least two LIP bridge devices to verify integrity of data received from said target  
20 devices, and each of said at least two LIP bridge devices being adapted to use  
21 partnering signals to reset the other LIP bridge device to isolate faults.

1 29. (Canceled)

1 30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 29 28, wherein said host  
2 bus master is operable to hold a failed interconnected LIP bridge device in a  
3 reset state in which said failed interconnected LIP bridge device is electrically  
4 removed from said child bus.

1 31. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, wherein said host bus  
2 master clears errors in said failed interconnected LIP bridge device with reset  
3 commands.

1           32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said host bus  
2 master is operable to access any target device on said child bus via any LIP  
3 bridge device connected to said parent bus and said child bus.

1           33. (Canceled)

1           34. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein said host bus master  
2 performs every child bus read operation on each of said at least two LIP bridge  
3 devices to ensure data integrity.

1           35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein each of said at least two LIP  
2 bridge devices are adapted to use partnering signals to disable the other LIP  
3 bridge device to isolate faults.

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